

Regular Meeting

Agenda Item #	2
Meeting Date	September 10, 2007
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Community and Government Liaison
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager

Discussion Item	Resolution in Support of Continued County Operation of the Pool at Piney Branch Elementary School
Background	The indoor public swimming pool at Piney Branch Elementary School was managed by Montgomery County until five years ago. At that time, the Silver Spring YMCA took on management responsibilities under contract with the Board of Education. With little notice, the YMCA declined to renew its contract and, as a result, operation of the pool has been suspended. Many residents and school students attended the City Council meeting of September 4, asking that efforts be made to re-open the pool. A resolution strongly urging the County to reopen the pool has been drafted.
Policy	The City Council advocates for services on behalf of the residents of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	n/a
Attachments	Draft resolution.
Recommendation	Approve resolution.
Special Consideration	

Introduced By:

Resolution #2007-__

**In Support of Continued County Operation
Of the Pool at Piney Branch Elementary School**

WHEREAS, for many years, Montgomery County operated the indoor swimming pool at Piney Branch Elementary School; **AND**

WHEREAS, for the last five years, the Silver Spring YMCA, under contract with the Montgomery County Public School system, has managed the pool; **AND**

WHEREAS, the YMCA has declined to renew its contract to operate the pool and operation of the pool has been suspended; **AND**

WHEREAS, as stated in the 2005 update of the Montgomery County Recreation Plan, the pool serves the southeastern portion of the county, particularly south of the Beltway in the Greater Silver Spring/Takoma Park area; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Piney Branch Pool is the only Montgomery County indoor public pool inside the Beltway; **AND**

WHEREAS, residents of Takoma Park and southern Silver Spring have little access to other indoor public swimming pools; **AND**

WHEREAS, 35 persons, including many young people, spoke out at the Takoma Park City Council meeting of September 4, 2007, in favor of keeping the pool open; **AND**

WHEREAS, students at Piney Branch Elementary School testified that the pool is a special aspect of their school experience and helps make the school a unique place; **AND**

WHEREAS, other major users of the pool include the Blair High School swim team, the Masters swim team, area afterschool and summer camp programs, and individuals; **AND**

WHEREAS, petitions to keep the pool open were submitted to the City Council and included 781 names, approximately 300 of which are Piney Branch Elementary School students; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Montgomery County Council and the Montgomery County Public School system have been working hard to improve nutrition, increase physical activity within the community, and encourage a healthful lifestyle; **AND**

WHEREAS, providing recreational facilities is part of the County's commitment to public health; **AND**

WHEREAS, Takoma Park and southern Silver Spring are heavily developed, with little space available to build new public recreational facilities; **AND**

WHEREAS, the existing downcounty recreational facilities should be preserved, renovated and maintained; **AND**

WHEREAS, reopening the pool, and committing to good programming for and promotion of the pool, would serve the Silver Spring and Takoma Park communities which badly need this facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Takoma Park strongly urges that Montgomery County keep the County pool at Piney Branch Elementary School open to the public.

ADOPTED this ____ day of September, 2007.